



NORTON SUB HAMDON and WEST CHINNOCK C of E VC PRIMARY SCHOOL FEDERATION



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Dear Parents,

We are at the end of another busy year at the Federation. I thought I would write to you to let you know of key events as well as new up and coming developments.

- **Co- Heads**, we are very much looking forward to the new leadership structure in September and Mr Caswell has already visited the school on a number of occasions during this term. Mr Caswell will work 5 days a week across the Federation, teaching for one day in Class 1 at Norton on a Thursday and Ms Stiddard will work 2 days a week. Ms Stiddard will mainly work on a Thursday whilst the other day will be more flexible to allow for the best use of time.
- **Website**. We now have a fully functioning Federation Website this has taken some time to get going due to various hiccups but it is now in place. There have been some comments around the joint calendar as it is confusing, however there is a tab on the top right hand corner which allows you to choose just West Chinnock and Federation and deselect Norton. This should then make it clearer. The website is specifically designed to look good on a mobile phone or tablet as many parents said this is where they access it, so it may not be as good on a larger device.
- **Social Media**. Posts on Facebook and Instagram have been working well with many positive comments from parents who have found the information interesting and informative. We try to ensure that posts are relatively equal for both schools, after a quick check of the posts there are slightly more for West Chinnock on the Instagram but more for Norton on Facebook. Facebook is used for posts with more information about the event whereas Instagram is mainly a picture with a short comment. There is however no competition between the schools as we are both part of an interactive and equal partnership, sharing ideas, and resources and allowing the children the added benefit of being in a collaborative Federation.
- **School Lunches**. We are very pleased to say that we have secured Fiveways School as our new meals provider for next year. I can vouch for the quality of the meals having visited the school and been treated to an excellent lunch. You should by now have the new menus for your selections. Children will be expected to take more responsibility during the lunch time with collecting and clearing up their own plates as we change the old system into a more modern cafeteria type set up. There will also be a self-service salad bar available every day. You will be invited to a tasting session in the new term to try some of the food for yourselves.
- Following numerous parental requests we have now signed up to **Parent Pay** with a plan for it to be up and running by the October half term 2019. Parents will be able to select and pay for school lunches on the site and we will be rolling out all cash payments to be done through the Parent Pay site which will be found on the website. So no more searching for little bits of cash and envelopes in that morning rush!



- **Swimming.** We are changing the swimming this year with Y3/4 going in terms 1 and 2 and joining Norton pupils to swim together. The children have particularly enjoyed working with pupils across the two schools and requested that they would like to do more. We will look for more opportunities to join with events.
- **Play School.** We are very much looking forward to working more closely with Play School next year and are exciting about the opportunities this brings for the whole school community. Play school will be open from 9-3.00pm Monday to Friday, with timetabled activities across the school site.
- **Building work.** This is on-going as we wait for a timeline of works from the project manager to plan ahead. It is thought that whilst the floor strengthening work is taking place the old part of the school, with the exception of the hall, will be out of action. The new flooring has been re-laid in the hall and it will be painted over the summer break.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for the school and stress that we operate an open door policy so please feel free to come and talk to either Mr Caswell or myself about any ideas or concerns you may have, we would like to hear from you.

We finish at 2pm on Friday 19th July and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3rd September for the start of term.

I hope you have a lovely summer break.

Liz Stiddard
Head Teacher

